THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) As per seismic zoning map of India published by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the Koyna Dam falls under zone IV. This zone is broadly associated with earthquakes of intensity up to VIII on the Modified Mercalli Scale. At present, there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world which can prediet the earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of time, space and magnitude. It is therefore not possible to forecast earthquake activity in Koyna-Warna region for the next 30—40 years.

(b) The Koyna Dam has been suitably strengthened after the occurrence of 1967 Koyna earthquake of Magnitude 6.3 on Ritcher scale to withstand future earthquakes.

(c) The area is continuously monitored and various scientific studies/investigations have been taken up to understand the earthquake mechanism in the region.

Production cost of steel

† 2914. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found out the production cost of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that his production cost is more than that in other steeL producing countries of the World; and

(d) if so, the countries in comparison to which the production cost of steel in India is higher?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The Indian steel industry consists of a whole range of production facilities—from primary steel making to rolling/downstream processing of finished products, which

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

take place in integrated plants and also in stand-alone modules confined to a certain stage of production. The cost of production in each production unit varies according to the technology adopted, the particular stage of production in a modular/Integrated unit, the landed costs of input materials borne by the producer and the efficiency levels of capital and labour etc.

The information on the cost of production of steel by the individual units is available only for a few steel producers in the country.

(b) The cost of production for an Indian plant on standard basis for CR coils, derived by the premier research agency in the field of iron and steel, the World Steel Dynamics (WSD). arc given below:

Indian flat products plant costs as on April, 2001

Production Facilities	T1SCO	J1NDALESSAR		BSL	RSP	ISPAT	LLOYD DRI	*LAW* 4%	STD. EAF	Plant
Pre-Tax Cost (ST)	314	419	421	404	466	457	462		505	413

NOTE: Exchange rate is Rs. 46.5 per US S

Production costs for non-flat products arc not available on a comparative basis for a meaningful analysis.

(c) The cost of production of steel in other steel producing countries are as given below:

World flat products plant costs as on April, 2001

Producing Countries	USA	Japan	Souih Korea	Taiwan	Brazil	Mexico	CIS	China	India
Pre-lax Cost ($ T)	480	458	350	388	362	403	297	347	423

NOTE: All costs are based on reference plants in each country considered. SOURCE: World Steel Dynamics.

(d) As can be seen from the above, the cost of production of steel (based on flat products) in India is more than the cost in Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, Brazil, CIS and China.

Import of steel, pig iron and scrap

2915. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of steel, pig iron and scrap imported during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange involved during each year, on import of steel, pig iron and scrap;

(c) the reasons for failure of public sector steel plants for not meeting the demand of pig iron and scrap of the country; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Details of the volume and value in respect of imports of steel (finished carbon steel), pig iron and scrap for 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (April—December) arc given below:

Qty. in '000 tonnes
Value in Rs. Crore

Period	Steel		Pig Iron		Scrap	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1999-2000	1600	2525	2.5	2.40	1076.3	584.25
2000-2001	1417	2322	1.8	2.03	1512.4	944.52
April—December, 2001 (provisional)	1005	1707	0.9	1.05	1464.0	897.0

(c) and (d) Pig iron produced as a by product during the process of steel making by major steel producers, including those in the public sector, is not a value added product and hence is not profitable.